



A damaged outboard motorboat is hauled off the marsh following last weekend's storm.

*Photo by Fran Nichols*

## Heavy Rains and Wind Batter Town

Last weekend's downpour and heavy winds helped the beach and battered the harbor, according to Harbormaster Don Beers.

At least 8 boats and a float broke away from moorings in the harbor during the height of the storm.

"Of the 8 boats that broke loose, 4 were heavily damaged," Beers said.

"The storm was forecast as a nor'easter but winds hit us from Thursday through Sunday in an east-southeasterly direction, pushing sand and soil material up on the beach. This is beneficial to us."

The beach was closed to the public from 2 to 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday because of the sea conditions, he said.

"What's good for the beach is bad for the harbor when it comes to weather conditions," said Beers.

Winds of 70 mph battered town during the height of the storm. Beers said all commercial vessels and the harbormaster boats were moved to the shelter of Bluefish River to ride out the storm.

Most of the boats in the harbor were previously hauled out when reports of at least 2 hurricanes and 2 northeasters threatened town earlier this fall.

"Normally at this time of year we'd have around 200

to 300 boats in the harbor but between the dredging operation and the storm warnings, we only had about 30 to 40."

Gov. William Weld declared a state of emergency in Plymouth, Norfolk, Suffolk, Middlesex and Essex counties, easing the way for federal aid. Much of eastern Mass. received up to a foot of rain.

The fire Department reported several power outages and downed wires. Crews responded to several reports of flooded cellars and assisted in shutting off utilities.

Parts of Lake Shore Drive were still flooded near the Pembroke line Tuesday from an overflowing Chandler Mill Pond. Peterson's Sawmill Pond off Route 14 near the Ashdod Animal Hospital also flooded parts of the road.